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Identical letters dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On Sunday evening, 9 December 2018, Hamas-affiliated Palestinian terrorist Salih Omar Barghouti opened fire in a drive-by shooting, injuring seven Israeli civilians, including Shira Ish-Ran, a 21-year-old mother who was 30 weeks pregnant. Critically wounded, Ms. Ish-Ran underwent surgery, including delivering her baby via emergency C-section. Although Ms. Ish-Ran is now stable, her baby did not survive. These brutal attacks were perpetrated and praised by Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization. They underscore, more than ever, the need for the relevant United Nations bodies to take action and to condemn Hamas and its actions unequivocally.

Yesterday, 13 December 2018, a 26-year-old Palestinian terrorist from Qalandia, armed with a knife, attacked two Israeli police officers on duty in the Old City of Jerusalem, and two Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers were killed and two others severely injured in a shooting attack at a bus stop in Givat Assaf. The perpetrators of these terror attacks fled the scene. Later, IDF soldiers foiled an attempted ramming attack near Ramallah-El Bira. This morning, 14 December 2018, near the village of Beit El, a Palestinian terrorist stabbed an IDF soldier and hit him in the head with a stone, causing serious injury.

Fatah has praised these attacks and their perpetrators on social media, calling for a drawing of the map "with the blood of the martyrs". Since September 2015, 76 innocent people have been killed and 1,168 wounded as a result of Palestinian terrorism. The Palestinian Authority (PA) has inspired these perpetrators, many of them very young, with its vicious incitement campaign. Under Mahmoud Abbas, the PA spends over seven per cent of its annual budget on monthly salaries to Palestinian terrorists and their families. This "pay-to-slay" policy encourages the Palestinians to terrorize and target innocent Israelis, proving that the PA leadership's calls for tolerance and peace are nothing more than subversive and hollow rhetoric.

Abbas' actions demonstrably undermine stability in the region. In response, Israel reserves the right to protect its citizens and its sovereignty.

I call on the Security Council to recognize these horrific attacks as terrorism, to condemn them immediately and to take action against the Palestinian Authority's policy of incentivizing terrorism. Accordingly, the Security Council should convene a meeting to discuss the PA's "pay-to-slay" policy and its so-called "Martyrs Fund".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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